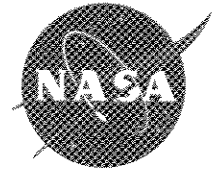


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



November 22, 2011

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation's Holiday Reception on November 29, 2011

On November 29, 2011, Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation will host its Washington Operations Customer Holiday Reception at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., from 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the holiday with customers as well as to reinforce the nature of the integrated government-industry team that makes up our Nation's Space Program.

Attending the reception will be representatives from NASA, other Executive branch agencies, and Members of Congress and their staffs, and industry. Approximately 600 people have been invited and are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is \$45 to \$50 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives the opportunity to build relationships and improve lines of communications with other guests, discuss innovative technologies, and to discuss NASA's programs and plans. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsor, or a majority or all of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

However, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the refreshments consumed by themselves and accompanying guests. Moreover, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(1) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone